



How High a Priority is 4-H with Your Club Members?

4-H members vary in how highly they prioritize 4-H activities in their daily lives. For some, 4-H is everything; for others, it is just one of many organized activities in which they participate. Many clubs have attendance expectations (often set by the first group), and consequently penalties that may be imposed on members who fail to meet those expectations (usually members of the second group).

If your club has attendance expectations in your Bylaws, members, leaders and parents need to have a "club conversation" about what constitutes legitimate reasons for not being in attendance at a business or project meeting, fundraiser or community service activity. Illness or family emergency are clearly acceptable. But what about obligations related to school functions, a sports team's training or game schedule, a church activity? What if a parent's work schedule "often" leaves a member without a ride? What if project meetings are scheduled at a time that is convenient for most involved, but is a real problem for one or two members? If your club has not yet had this conversation, put it on the January or February agenda. Let members know ahead of time; ask them to make lists ahead of time about what they think is acceptable and what isn't. DISCUSS THE ISSUE UNTIL YOU REACH A CONSENSUS. You don't want to decide this by a 16-14 vote. Consider excusing a limited number of other-group obligations, rather than "none" or "all".

Ambassador Club Welcomes Members

The 4-H Ambassador Club is currently accepting new members. This club offers great opportunities for youth age 12 or older, who would like to make a difference in their community, need to fulfill their community service requirements, and want to enhance their leadership skills. Joining the Ambassador Club is a great way to meet new people, establish new friendships, give back to the community and learn about the many programs 4-H has to offer. The club meets once a month, at Michigan State University Extension, in the VerKuijen Building in Clinton Township.

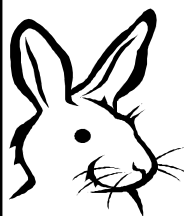
The Ambassador club is also looking for adult volunteers to help lead the club. Any questions please contact Karen Hakim at 586-469-5931.

2008 4-H Children's Art Exchange

Every year, through the Michigan 4-H Children's Art Exchange, kindergarteners to sixth graders are invited to send "visual letters" to children their own ages in China. A kit to facilitate teaching about China and making art to exchange will be available to Macomb County teachers and 4-H'ers during March and April 2008.

Artwork from the county is then sent to MSU where about 60 pieces are selected to be sent to China as a gift to that nation's children. Last year two pieces from Mrs. Borbolla's class at Ewell Elementary (Utica) went to China. For more information or to reserve the teaching kit, contact Karen Hakim at 586-469-6431.

State 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show

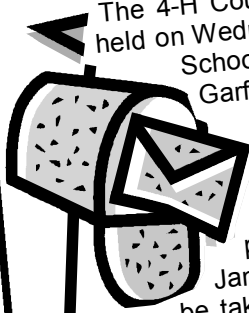


The State 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Show is scheduled for January 26, 2008 at the M.S.U. Pavilion in East Lansing. Michigan 4-H members ages 9-19 as of January 1, 2008 who are interested in exhibiting and learning more about their rabbits and cavies are eligible to attend. The cost per class is \$2.75.

Show highlights include commercial exhibits, a raffle, the opportunity to purchase top-quality rabbits and cavies at the auction, visit educational booths on nutrition and health with feed company representatives on site to answer questions. 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Scholarship winners will be announced.

Call the 4-H office to request an event packet or get one online at <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/aniscipr.html#Rabbits>.

You Are Invited to the 4-H County Awards and Leader Recognition Banquet



The 4-H County Awards and Leader Recognition Banquet will be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2008 at the Macomb Intermediate School District. The MISD is located south of Hall Road on Garfield. All 4-H'ers and their families are invited. The Banquet will start at 6 p.m. sharp.

There is no cost for nominees, but they are expected to RSVP. For everyone else, the cost is \$6/person if you RSVP by January 11, 2008. After the January 11th the price rises \$10 per person. No RSVPs will be taken after 5 p.m. January 16, 2008. **Written invitations will not be mailed.** RSVP by phone to Roberta Busquaert at 586-469-6431 or by e-mail Macomb.4h@macombcountymi.gov.

Club & Committee News

Trail Blazers 4-H Club Share Results during Global Snapshot of Water Quality

Seven members of Trail Blazers 4-H Club participated in activities kicking off World Water Monitoring Day* on September 18, 2007. New volunteers and experienced monitors gained first-hand experience with water quality monitoring assessments, designed to be a basic health screening for the Belle River and Coon Creek watershed.

Trail Blazers 4-H Club agreed to join thousands of other volunteers across the globe to sample water quality and report their findings as part of the global effort. Local monitoring was conducted at two locations, the Belle River in Memphis and Coon Creek in Armada. Their involvement is motivated by the belief that local citizens can have more of an impact on their watershed because of their direct connection to it. Participants this year were Alex Ford, Jordan DuBaere, Michael and Steven Scaglione and Jim Ford - Project Coordinator.

World Water Monitoring Day* is an annual event to engage citizens and youth so they better understand how the actions of individuals impact everyone and establish results that can be compared over time. The Water Environment Federation and the International Water Association serve as the primary coordinators for the program. A complete list of sponsors and partners is found on the web site. For more information, visit the World Water Monitoring Day* web site at www.worldwatermonitoringday.org.



Pictured with 4-H Leader Jim Ford are Macomb County Trail Blazers 4-H Club members Alex Ford, Jordan DuBaere, and Michael and Steven Scaglione. Members of the club took part in World Water Monitoring Day by sampling water from two local rivers.

Submitted by Jim Ford, TrailBlazers 4-H Club

Not a Pepperoni was Left

Seventy-seven officers and adults attended Club Officer Training on Monday, November 19, 2006. After consuming a record number of pizzas, and before officer breakout sessions, Greg Franczak of the Clinton River Watershed Council, challenged participants to take steps to become greener at home (see article about Green Christmas) and to incorporate more environmental activities into our club programming by teaming with CRWC, the DNR or the Oakland/ Macomb Land Conservancy on a project of mutual interest. If you would like to learn more about the volunteer opportunities of these organizations, contact Anne at the 4-H office, 586-469-6431 or check out their websites: www.crwc.org, www.michigan.gov/dnrvolunteers, www.savingplaces.org (Macomb L.C.), and www.oaklandlandconservancy.org. The 4-H staff would also like to extend a special thanks to Nancy Duemling for chairing the Historian/ Reporter Session again this year.

A make up session for officers who were unable to attend the November training has been scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008, 6:30-8 p.m. at the 4-H Office. Officers who should attend will be contacted directly at a later date.



Volunteer of the Month

Jim Ford is our Volunteer of the Month for January 2008. He was nominated by Tracy DuBaere, General Leader of Trail Blazers 4-H Club. Tracy nominated Jim for the effort he puts into 4-H. She wrote:

"Jim puts a lot of effort into our club. He serves as a screened volunteer and as a leader in Visual Arts. He has done many project areas in the past as well. He is a certified instructor for shooting and is a big help with that program. He is very creative and helps our members with anything that needs to be figured out in those areas. He helps set up community services and is also one of the first adults to volunteer in our club. He served as a Fair 4-H Superintendent. He shares many ideas and serves many hours for our club. He always has. He doesn't walk away when help is needed. Instead he's the first one to say 'What needs to be done'. That to me is a top notch volunteer!"

Congratulations, Jim! It's volunteers like you that help make 4-H a positive experience for 4-H youth, and the Macomb County 4-H Program is pleased to have you with us.

You too can nominate someone to receive the 4-H Volunteer of the Month Award. Complete the 4-H Volunteer of the Month Nomination Form (online at <http://macombcountymi.gov/msuextension/Clubs.htm>, click on "Forms" and scroll down to "County Awards Forms") and send it (along with the nominee's picture) to Macomb MSU Extension, Attn:4-H, 21885 Dunham Rd., Suite 12, Clinton Township, MI 48036.

Upcoming Events

4-H Capitol Experience

Be among more than 100 teens from around the state who will converge in Lansing, Michigan, March 9-12, 2008 for this annual conference on state government and public policy. Participants will meet with legislators and lobbyists and participate in a mock legislative session that will consider bills they have written in the areas of agriculture, crime and drugs, economic issues, education, environment, family, and health. Career exploration visits with staffers from the Governor's and Attorney General's offices, Democratic and Republican Headquarters, a judge, attorney, lobbyist, pollster and reporter are also part of the program. High schoolers and adult chaperones who are interested in developing leadership skills and gaining knowledge useful for successful civic involvement and community service should consider attending. Applications and promotional information are online and are due in the county MSU Extension 4-H office by February 8, 2008. Anne Crotser, who is on the state steering committee this year, is hoping for a nice delegation of participants from our county.

Registration cost includes all meals, lodging and material fees. The cost for adults and current 4-H members is \$255. Non-members pay \$265. Scholarships to cover half of the cost are available from the 4-H Council for this event. Check the County 4-H website for scholarship guidelines. For more information call Anne at the 4-H Office, 586-469-6431, or go to <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/capexp.html>.

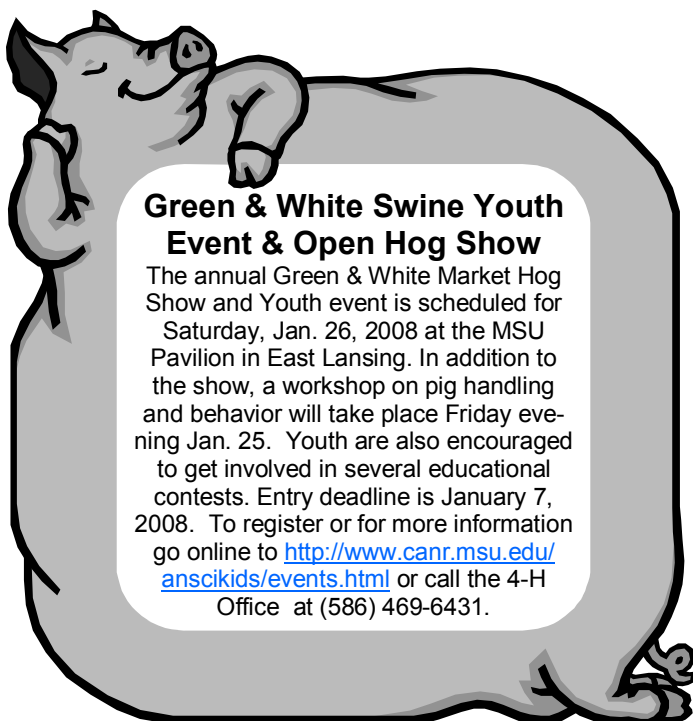
Michigan 4-H Communications Day

4-H members ages 9-19 are invited to share what they're learning at the Michigan 4-H Communications Day on February 9, 2008 at Michigan State University. This event is open to youth interested in all 4-H project areas – not just animal sciences. Five \$100 individual cash awards and two \$250 county cash awards will be presented at the contest.

Young people will be recognized for their skills and abilities in the following areas: Educational Exhibits, Public Speaking, Demonstrations, Art (including patch design), Photography, Graphic Design, Cookery, Web Design, and Citizenship Education. Detailed information on the specific communications contest rules and eligibility requirements, as well as coordinator contact information is provided in the Communications Day registration packet. Check out <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/commday.html> for more information, or call the Macomb MSUE 4-H Office at 586-469-6431 to request a registration packet.

The Future is You: Peer Plus 2008

The Future is You! The Peer Plus 2008 workshop is open for registration. The workshop will be held at Kettunen Center in Tustin, MI from Jan. 11-13, 2008 for adults and youth age 13 and older (by 1/1/08). The tracks will include The Path to Becoming a Millionaire, Be Your Own Boss, Speak Out For Military Kids, and Helping Friends. The cost is \$67 per person. RSVP with MSUE by January 4, 2007. Call (586) 469-6431 for more details.



Green & White Swine Youth Event & Open Hog Show

The annual Green & White Market Hog Show and Youth event is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008 at the MSU Pavilion in East Lansing. In addition to the show, a workshop on pig handling and behavior will take place Friday evening Jan. 25. Youth are also encouraged to get involved in several educational contests. Entry deadline is January 7, 2008. To register or for more information go online to <http://www.canr.msu.edu/anscikids/events.html> or call the 4-H Office at (586) 469-6431.

4-H Ski Day

At Apple Mountain
Sunday, January 27, 2008
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Ski & Snowboard Packages Available. Each includes Lift Ticket, Rental Pass, and a Complimentary Beginner Lesson.

Pizza & Pop Lunch Special (Optional) - \$4

Join other 4-H groups for a fun day of Skiing at Apple Mountain – **Register by phone; pay the day of the event.** To register or for information, call Kathy Schofield at 888-781-6789 ext. 202.

4519 N. River Road, Freeland MI 48623
www.applemountain.com



Upcoming Events (continued)

Michigan Week Youth Photo Contest

If you're between the ages of 9 and 19 and are interested in photography, the **2008** Michigan Week Youth Photo Contest may be for you! Participating youths are asked to photograph a favorite Michigan Historical site that is at least 50 years old. A site can be a building (such as a barn or factory); a structure (such as a bridge); an area (such as a neighborhood or business district); or a place significant in history (such as an underground Railroad Station). Each youth may submit up to two photos. Photo entries are due February 15, 2008.

The Michigan Week Youth Photo Contest is coordinated by Michigan 4-H Youth Development and the Michigan Department of History Arts and Libraries (HAL). Twelve photos will be selected to tour Michigan from June 2008 through June 2009. Twenty-four photos will be selected as regional winning photos. All 36 photos will be on the HAL website for one year. Thousands of people visit this site annually. Michigan Week is May 17-23, 2008. For more information about this contest, contact the Macomb County MSU 4-H office at (586) 469-6431 or go to the 2008 Michigan Week website at <http://www.Michigan.gov/michiganweek>.

Photography Classes Available

A two-session class will be available for those who would like some tips on basic picture taking. A photographer will teach the classes from 6:30p.m.-8 p.m. on January 8th and 15th at the Clinton-Macomb Library. If interested in attending the class, please R.S.V.P to Karen Hakim at the Macomb County 4-H office (586) 469-6431.

Free Money Management Classes Make Dollars and Sense

Need to clean up your credit? Looking to buy a home? Need to save for emergencies? Keep your New Year's resolution and get your finances in order! MSU Extension is offering a free eight-week course on managing your finances on Thursdays evenings from 6:30-9:00 p.m. beginning January 17, 2008 at Leaps and Bounds (Mt. Calvary Community Center) in Warren. The class is sponsored by the City of Warren. Call the Macomb MSUE Housing Department at 586-469-6430 for more details or to register.

Spring and Fall 2008 Master Gardener Class Applications Available

Macomb MSU Extension is now accepting applications for its spring and fall 2008 Master Gardener courses. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Anyone not able to make it into the spring or fall class will automatically be put on the list for the next class.

Spring classes will run from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. every Tuesday, from January 8 to March 11 at the VerKuijen Building, 21885 Dunham Road, Suite 12, Clinton Township, MI 48036. Fall classes will run from 6-10 p.m. every Monday, from September 8 to November 15, at the same location.

There is a fee of \$260 for the class, payable by check or cash. For an application, call (586) 469-6440, visit the MSU Extension Office or download one at http://www.macombcountymi.gov/msuextension/hort_ag_Calendar.htm#MasterGardener.

4-H Exploration Days

June 18-20, 2008

at Michigan State University

This program is for youths ages 11-19.

Call 586-469-6431 or go online to

<http://web1.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/expodays.html> for more information.

Macomb County Drill Team

Ashley Cerku has started an equine drill team in Macomb County. The team will be practicing at the Black Tie Ranch located at 26 Mile and Marsh Rd. Dates have not yet been set for practices.

If you or some one you know is interested in participating in a drill team, please contact Ashley Cerku at 586-731-6487.

Macomb County 4-H Staff

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Tina Fleming, 4-H Youth Educator
Anne Crotser, 4-H Youth Educator
Karen Hakim, 4-H Youth Educator
Roberta Busquaert, 4-H Secretary
Jan Gwozdz, 4-H Mentor Coordinator
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